

M2020

Dr Kerry Phelps AM, MP
Member for Wentworth

Ms Julia Banks
Independent candidate for Flinders

Ms Rebekha Sharkie, MP
Member for Mayo

Ms Zali Steggall
Independent candidate for Warringah

25 April 2019

Dear Members and independent candidates for the 46th Parliament of Australia,

Following my visit to Australia in October 2017, I have followed closely the evolving political discussions on Australia's contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change. As one of the world's highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases, and as a country uniquely blessed with all the necessary ingredients for a renewables-based economy, Australia has both the responsibility and opportunity to do a lot more.

It brings me a great sense of hope that the upcoming election features four independent women willing to call out the appalling inaction in Canberra, and to set out strong policy platforms and longer-term vision for what it would take for Australia to take its rightful place as a leader in the global fight against climate change. As all of you have rightly noted during your campaigns, climate change is not a political 'left' or 'right' issue. It is an issue of planetary and generational significance that is already making our world less prosperous, more dangerous and in some places, completely uninhabitable. It is important that women of influence take the lead.

Following on from my work as Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which culminated in the historic adoption of the Paris Agreement, I am now engaged in [several new areas of work](#). I have taken on the role of a Climate Leader at the World Bank, as Vice Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors on Energy & Climate, and I am the convener of [Mission 2020 \(M2020\)](#), a new global initiative that promotes action to ensure the world bends the curve on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and get back on track to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Building on the initiative of Dr Phelps and Ms Sharkie to establish a 'Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action' earlier this year, we have been in informal discussions with Dr Phelps about the possibility of bringing you all together in the next fortnight for a private briefing and 'Chatham House Rule' roundtable discussion with business leaders and investors advocating stronger climate policy signals and leadership from Canberra.

We intend for this roundtable event to offer an opportunity for greater clarity on business and investor views of the different policy options currently on the table, the economic benefits of accelerated action, and what else could be done in the next parliament to make Australia a leader among the pack of countries, including in the Asia Pacific region, seeking to embrace and benefit from the decarbonisation revolution already underway.

As things stand, we plan to hold the private roundtable on the morning of Tuesday 7 May (tentatively 10am to 11:30am) in Sydney. For those of you campaigning in non-Sydney electorates, it would be great to have you at the briefing in person to maximise the public impact of a “G4” of independent women leaders on climate change. In the event that you are unable to join in person, we would look to have you join by teleconference, and also to participate remotely in the 15 to 25-minute press conference we plan to hold afterwards.

I regret that I myself am unlikely to be able make it to Sydney for this important occasion, but I will connect to the discussion remotely. Should you **confirm your availability to participate in the briefing event by 12 noon on Friday 27 April**, my colleague, Dr. Dean Bialek, who is based in Sydney, will be in touch to confirm the agenda for the event, and take forward the logistical arrangements. Dean is available at dbialek@mission2020.global or by phone on +61 400 286 356.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HAR', with a stylized flourish extending from the right side.

Christiana Figueres